(SRI K. F. PATIL)

effective results. However, arrangements have been made for retail sale of rice and wheat through Fair Price shops throughout the State, with a view to stabilise the prices.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Sri K. F. PATIL (Minister for Forests and Transport).—I beg to lay on the Table a statement furnishing the information in connection with Starred Question No. 1 regarding the names and charges against 34 Drivers of the M.G.R.T.D. given notice of by Sri E. Narayana Gowda.

CONDOLENCE REFERENCE

Re: Demise of Sri Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

Mr. SPEAKER.—It is with deep regret that I rise to refer to the death of Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. He had been associated with the struggle for freedom for over 60 years first as a volunteer, later as a delegate and finally as the President of the All India Congress. He had devoted his whole life to the cause of Indian freedom. Even after Independence, he continued to serve the country as Governor of Madhya Pradesh. The official history of the Congress which he brought out on the occasion of its golden jubilee is a monumental work which is not only the history of that institution but also a history of India during the period to which it relates. He was also intimately associated with the people's movement in Indian States. He was Vice-President and later President of the States Peoples Congress.

In his death India has lost a great patriot. As a mark of respect to his memory I request you all to stand in silence for two minutes.

(All the Hon'ble Members stood in silence for two minutes.)

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Re. SHARAVATHI PROJECT

Mr. SPEAKER.—The Hon. Minister for Public Works Department has made a request that he may be permitted to make a statement in this House. I have allowed the Minister to make the statement under Rule 306 which reads as follows:

"A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker, but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made".

Sri B. K. PUTTARAMIYA (Channapatna).—Can we ask questions after the statement?

Mr. SPEAKER.—I will see what can be done after the statement; no question can be put in the course of the statement.

Sri G. N. PUTTANNA (Tumkur).—Will we be supplied with copies of the statement?

Mr. SPEAKER.—Yes.

Sri C. M. ARUMUGHAM (Kolar Gold Fields).—Do we get a chance to discuss the statement?

Mr. SPEAKER.—We will see later.

Sri B. K. PUTTARAMIYA.—What is the use of his making a statement if we cannot discuss the statement? It will be only a waste of time. The Minister could as well call a press conference.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Under the rules, the Minister is entitled to make a statement on matters concerning his department, which are of importance. After the statement, if the Members feel that it should be taken for discussion, they can make a request under the rules.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA (Gubbi).—I would like to know whether under the rules the Minister's statement can get priority over the business mentioned in the Agenda.

Mr. SPEAKER.—There is no question of any rule. It can get priority.